

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's
EXCITER



RARS EVENTS:

- The RARS General Membership meeting is the 1st Tuesday of the month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 PM on 146.640.
- The RARS Technical & Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 PM or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

SKYWARN Recognition Day 2009

Article by Virginia Enzor NC4VA, CCS
 Emergency Coordinator

SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) took place Saturday, December 5, 2009, from 0000-2400 UTC. Created in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League, the event celebrates the contributions that SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service to help keep their communities safe. During the event, SKYWARN operators visited NWS offices to contact other NWS offices and radio operators. Radio operators exchanged names, call signs, locations, signal reports, and a 1 or 2-word weather report. Over 100 NWS offices across the country participated in the event.



Central Carolina SKYWARN/Raleigh NWS participants (at NWS) from L to R. Kneeling: Dave Roy W4DNA, Jeff Orrock KI4KKX. Back row: Randy Stark WN4RSS, Scott Lewis KJ4BPV, Ken Stark W4KJS, Virginia Enzor NC4VA, Bob Woodson WX4MMM, Chris Benson KJ4LKE, and Christine Benson.

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Next RARS Meeting: January 5

7:30 PM: State-of-the-art high fidelity audio systems presented by Dennis Had W4USR, Cary Audio Designs.

RARS OFFICERS:

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the amateur radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic needs; to educate members in radio technique, and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year. Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or on the RARS website (www.rars.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available. Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcome articles, advertisements, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS.

The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

The submission deadline for each month's *Exciter* is the third Friday of the preceding month. All submissions must be final. Drafts are not accepted.

Editor: Courtney Enzor KI4HOS (editor@rars.org)

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: First Alliance Church

4400 Buffaloe Road

Raleigh, NC

Time: People begin arriving at 7 PM. The meeting officially begins at 7:30 PM.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family – feel free to bring your little ones! Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

Listen to the nightly RARS net and check www.rars.org for details on the next dinner's location.

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.130 (82.5 PL), 146.640, & 444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 PM on the 146.640. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS member to the net.



VE TESTING

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSFest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSFest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, your \$15 exam fee, and any CSEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

Upcoming Hamfests

- 12/5- Tampa Bay Hamfest
12/6 Palmetto, FL
<http://fgcarc.org/>
- 1/2 19th Annual Morristown Hamfest
White Pine, TN
<http://www.lakewayarc.org/events.html>
- 1/9 Winston-Salem FirstFest
Winston-Salem, NC
<http://www.w4nc.com/>
- 1/9 TechFest 2009
Lawrenceville, GA
<http://www.gars.org>
- 1/29- Delta Division Convention
1/30 Jackson, MS
<http://www.msham.org/hamfest.php>

Hams Helping Hams

Sam Johnson NC4SJ has a newly installed mobile station in his Jeep consisting of an ICOM 7000 Transceiver with automatic tune control and screwdriver antenna. He would like to visit with a Ham operator who has an ICOM 7000 to receive some instruction.

Sam can be contacted at 743-2200 (office), 787-0603 (home), or
sjohnson@jhvgglaw.com.

December Birthdays

| | | |
|------------------|--------|-------|
| John | W2YBN | 12/2 |
| Randy | KE4PNT | 12/6 |
| Ronnie | W4RJF | 12/6 |
| Virginia | NC4VA | 12/9 |
| Bruce | KC4UQN | 12/9 |
| Clyde | WB2EYC | 12/10 |
| George Herring | | 12/11 |
| Mike | WA4BPJ | 12/11 |
| Jeff | KI4JDE | 12/11 |
| Nicholas Gessler | | 12/12 |
| Frank | KA2FWC | 12/12 |
| Roger | KS4VX | 12/12 |
| Ebb | W3EPA | 12/13 |
| Ed | W4YC | 12/16 |
| Cliff | W4FT | 12/17 |
| Roger | W3EZR | 12/18 |
| Kevin | KC4THW | 12/18 |
| James | KE6FNW | 12/20 |
| Bert | W4FMN | 12/21 |
| David | KG4RIY | 12/27 |
| Gerry | K4GCJ | 12/31 |
| Katie | KE4DRL | 12/31 |
| Dick | KD4ISC | 12/31 |

New RARS Members

Gary Shelby KJ4QBT

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Jeff Orrock KI4KKX assists with antenna installation from the roof of the Raleigh NWS in rain and cold.

With a lot of enthusiasm, Central Carolina SKYWARN (CCS) teamed up with the Raleigh National Weather Service for the 11th annual SRD, operating under the call sign WX4NC.

Operating from 9am-5pm at the National Weather Service Office on Centennial Campus in Raleigh NC, the team consisted of Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX, CCS Emergency Coordinator Virginia Enzor NC4VA, CCS Assistant Emergency Coordinator Bob Woodson WX4MMM, CCS Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Wayne County Dave Roy W4DNA, CCS Net Controls Scott Lewis KF4BPV and Kevin Smith K4BGM, and spotters Randy Stark WN4RSS, Ken Stark W4KJS, Chris Benson KJ4LKE, Christine Benson (who proved to be an excellent logger!), Courtney Enzor KI4HOS, and Cassie Mentha KJ4GKP.

To make the event run smoothly, we divided up tasks. Virginia Enzor NC4VA served as local SRD event coordinator. Bob Woodson WX4MMM served as IRLP coordinator, and Dave Roy W4DNA served as HF coordinator. Dave also headed up the antenna crew who put up 2 HF antennas in the early morning hours during rain and temperatures in the 40s! That's dedication!

For equipment we used two permanently installed, dual band Kenwood TMD7 radios with Diamond dual band vertical antennas that are mounted on the roof of the building housing the National Weather Service.

For HF, we pulled the NWS's brand new KENWOOD TS 570S out of the box and set it up; it performed beautifully! We also used Dave Roy's Yaesu FT 897 radio. We alternated a Windom and a 20 meter inverted V antenna with both radios.

We used both paper logs and N3FJP logging software. Folks commented how intuitive the N3FJP software was and loved it.



Joining the WX4NC team in afternoon were (L to R) Kevin Smith K4BGM, Courtney Enzor KI4HOS and Cassie Mentha KJ4GKP.

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Here's a breakdown of our contacts:

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| HF (20 & 40 meters) | 25 contacts |
| VHF (146.88 & 147.105) | 45 contacts |
| UHF | 12 contacts |
| IRLP | 78 contacts |
| Total | 160 (with 5 duplicates) |

We made contacts with:

- 33 NWS offices (which earned us the Whole Gale Certificate)
- 32 states
- 2 foreign countries – Canada and Estonia
- 1 US commonwealth – Puerto Rico

Having access to the K4JDR-KD4RAA Carolina 440 Linked System was invaluable. Through its linking capabilities, we were able to link with 12 repeaters covering 8500 square miles. It also offered us IRLP capability through which we made about half of our contacts. For more information on this linked system, please visit www.carolina440.net.

If there was anything unusual about this SKYWARN Recognition Day, it was the number of firsts.

- We were the first ones to use the new NWS HF rig.
- This was the first time two meteorology majors, both from NC State University (Kevin Smith K4BGM and Cassie Mentha KJ4GKP), participated in SRD at the NWS.
- Cassie Mentha KJ4GKP made her very first HF contact.
- Kevin Smith K4BGM made his very first IRLP contact.
- It was the first time Scott Lewis KJ4BPV had seen the N3FJP logging software and used a foot pedal as the PTT button.

What is SRD about? It's about thanking spotters for their contributions and public service. It's about "firsts" for some new hams. It's about fun!

We were pleased with our results and hope to do even better next year!



Cassie Mentha KJ4GKP making her first HF contact ever!

Minutes by Charles Swindell WB4DCM, RARS Secretary

October 20, 2009 RARS Board Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Road, Raleigh. The following members were present: John AI4RT, Gary KN4AQ, Ken KI4OTO, Karl W4CHX, Virginia NC4VA, Chuck K4HF, Selene KG4RMT, Hank K4HM, Rod KI4LSN, Steve KJ4BX, Greg KE4PAX and Charles WB4DCM.

The meeting was called to order by President Selene KG4RMT at 7:08 PM. Out going officers were requested to prepare an outline of their duties for the new officers.

President Selene stated that at the last regular meeting, she had the Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting as that was required by our constitution since the EXCITER had not been published in time. The minutes of the last Board meeting were approved as published.

VP Karl W4CHX advised that the November program would be Dennis Had W4USR of Cary Audio who will do a presentation on state of the art high fidelity equipment. Danny Hampton K4ITL is scheduled to attend the November meeting. The December meeting will be our Christmas party with the Encore Singers.

Committee Reports:

- Virginia NC4VA Education reported that she has 12 students in the current Tech Class, including one 8 year old. Two of the students have purchased General Class manuals. The exam will be given on Saturday, October 24.
- John AI4RT Public Service indicated that the Raleigh Marathon will be on Sunday, November 1.
- John AI4RT Hamfest advised that there will be a meeting on Monday, October 26 at 7:00 PM at the Triangle Radio Reading Service.
- Chuck K4HF Nominating Committee advises that all offices have candidates and we are set for nominations from the floor and the election in December.
- Steve KJ4BX At-Large Director reported that new hardware for the APRS trackers has been acquired. The new equipment seems to be working great.
- Ken KI4OTO At-Large Director advised he would do an article about the WCPE visit.

Old Business:

(Continued on next page)

- The file cabinet is still at the residence of Dick KD4ISC. He has offered to box the contents for storage.
- At the JOTA event Gary KN4AQ and Rod KI4LSN participated.

Discussion:

RARS has received an email from an individual who expressed concern about a net being operated on the 146.64 repeater. He was concerned that it constituted business. After some discussion, a motion was made and seconded to table further discussion until all information was available to the Board. The motion was passed.

Treasurer Greg KE4PAX announced that we have 221 members. Field Day expenses have not been concluded.

New Business:

- Ken KI4OTO advised that WCPE is a non profit and as such cannot contribute to other non profits. He notes that RARS is making contributions to other non profits. He will check into the issue and report back at the next Board meeting.

There being no other business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

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November 3, 2009 RARS General Meeting Minutes

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 3, 2009 at the First Alliance Church, Buffaloe Rd, Raleigh. There were 51 members and guests present. Our guests included Carl Ponto KJ4WD and Gary Shelby KJ4QBT (both joined RARS), Rick Jackson KB4RZ, and Danny & Rose Hampton.

The meeting was called to order by President Selene KG4RMT at 7:35PM. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as published. Treasurer Greg KE4PAX reported that RARS has 229 members.

Announcements:

- The monthly RARS supper will be on Tuesday, November 10 at the Golden Corral. All are welcome.
- The RARS Board will meet on Tuesday, November 17 at the Triangle Radio Reading Service on Six Forks Road. All RARS members are welcome.
- The after meeting get together will happen immediately following the meeting tonight.
- Our next meeting will be our Christmas meeting.
- The JARS Fest is set for November 15.
- Our web site contains a list of all events.

Committee Reports:

- Virginia NC4VA Education advised that the Technician Class has been completed. The last class and exam was on October 24. She then read the names all call signs of those that had completed the class. The next class will be in the spring 2010. Thanks to the RARS members who helped with the class.
- John AI4RT Public Service announced that the public service season was basically over. There is one event in Wilmington between the beach and the battleship (B2B) this weekend.
- John AI4RT RARS Fest Chair stated that some organizational changes have been made. The next meeting will be in January 2010.
- Dick KD4ISC thanked those who helped with the MS bike event in New Bern. The event raised over \$1 million dollars. He then went on to enumerated the value that ham radio brought to this event.

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- Dick KD4ISC then presented “CJ” KJ4OBQ with her certificate for successful completion of the NTS Traffic Training Program.

President Selene read extensive information about Wade “ Danny” Hampton, Jr K4ITL. Danny had been selected 2009 Amateur of the Year at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention. VP Karl W4CHX then advised that RARS was presenting Danny with honorary membership in RARS. In addition, Danny was presented with an antique style Heil microphone with Danny’s call sign in raised in letters attached to the mic. Danny made a few comments and thanked us for our support. Gary KN4AQ commented that our rigs would be almost worthless with a repeater. He encouraged all to join PCRN.

Virginia NC4VA won our door prize drawing.

Chuck K4HF Chair of the Nominating Committee reviewed the slate of officers as nominated: Public Service John AI4RT, Public Information Gary KN4AQ, 2010 RARSFest John AI4RT, Exciter editor Courtney KI4HOS, Net Manager Mary KG4OQA, At-Large Director Don WA4AVU, At-Large Director Steve KJ4BX, At-Large Director Ken KI4OTO, FM Repeater Chair Gary KN4AQ, W4DW/W4RNC Trustee Jeff AC4OZ, ARRL Liaison Chuck K4HF, Education Director Virginia NC4VA, Web Master Hank K4HM, Hospitality Chair Mary Jo K4MJL, 2010 Field Day Chair Mike WA4BPJ, and VE Coordinators Liz and Joe White KO4CK & WA4GIR, respectively. For two year terms, President Karl W4CHX and Secretary Charles WB4DCM. To complete the remaining term of the current VP, Justin AJ4MJ. He then called for nominations from the floor. There being none, a motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. The motion was approved. Chuck K4HF then asked for a motion that the Secretary cast one vote for the complete slate of officers. That motion was seconded and approved.

Chuck K4HF asked for a hand for those folks who were retiring from office or taking a new responsibility. Those folks were KG4RMT, KI4LSN and W4CHX.

VP Karl W4CHX announced that our program for the evening had to be cancelled at the last moment. Dennis W4USR was going to do a presentation on high fidelity but due to personal business issues was unable to make it. As a fill in program, individual members were asked to give their name, call, ham interest, outside interest, and what program that they could give. Twenty five of our members then responded to the task with many humorous comments.

President Selene adjourned the meeting at 9:22 PM.

Local Amateur Radio Nets

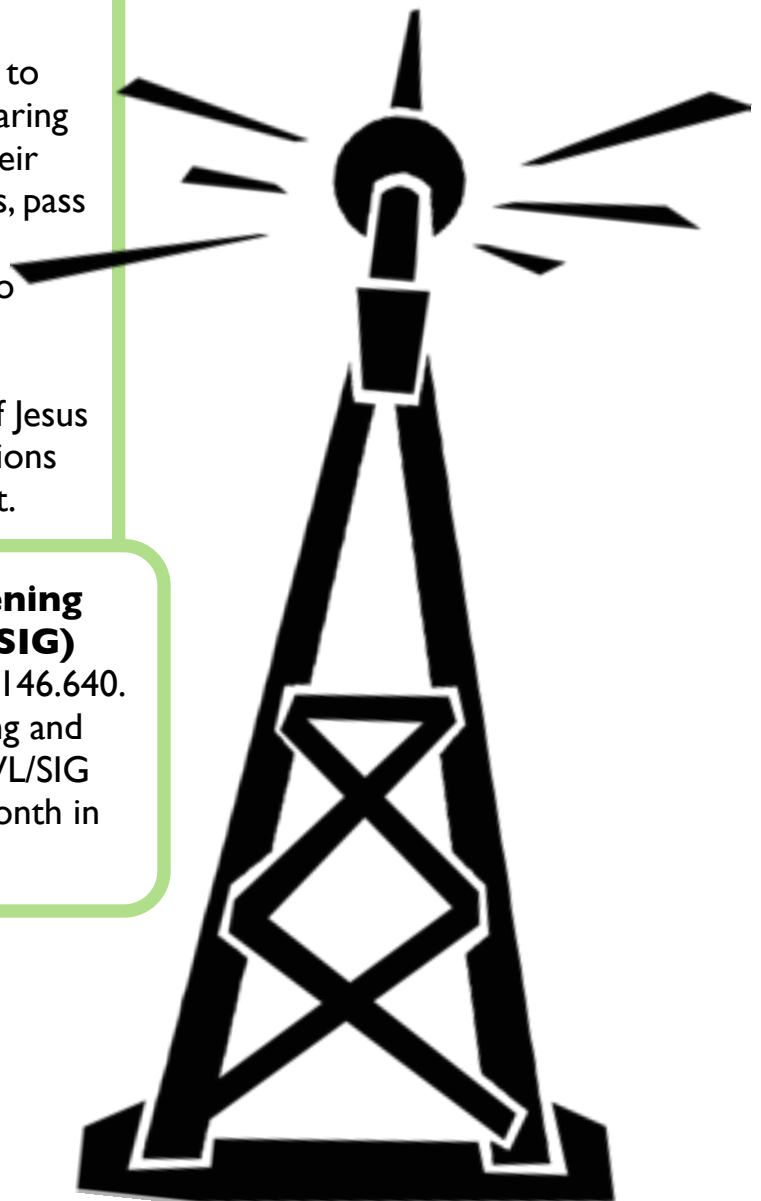
The **RARS Technical & Trader's Net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.640 after the 8 PM RARS net.

Apex Emergency Response Communications Net

This net meets weekly each Sunday evening @ 9 PM on the 146.640 repeater. The purpose of the net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet. The Apex ERC Net provides amateur radio emergency communications for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. All stations are invited to participate in this net.

Join the **Tarheel Shortwave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG) Net** on Monday evenings @ 9 PM on 146.640. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

The **VOIP Hurricane Net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.



Local Amateur Radio Nets

Join us every evening at 8 PM on the 146.640 repeater for the **RARS Two-Meter Net**. You can give a ragchew, check in and out (this counts for our total numbers reported to the ARRL!), make announcements, and pass traffic. We also offer National Traffic System traffic training. All licensed stations are welcome to participate in the net as often as they can. This net is also a great way to learn about amateur radio if you are newly licensed!

The **PCTN (Piedmont Costal Traffic Net)** meets every night at 9 PM on the 146.880. The purpose of the net is to handle/pass NTS formal messages. Amateur stations are encouraged to check in and participate. The backup repeater is the 147.105 (PL tone 82.5).

The **Wake County ARES Net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.880 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of emergency communications for our served agencies, such as the American

Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. For more information, check out www.wakeares.org.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday @ 9:15 PM on the 146.880 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

January 12: "Radio Check Night" with CCS Emergency Coordinator Virginia Enzor NC4VA. Visit the website for a list of the repeaters we'll be using.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 Net** every Monday night at 7:30 PM. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Coastal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.

Calling All HAMS: Come Operate Aboard BB-55 From Scuttlebutt, Newsletter of the Battleship North Carolina

Our dedicated radio volunteers from the Azalea Coast Amateur Radio Club approached us several months ago with an idea they borrowed from the USS MISSOURI. They wanted to offer fellow HAMS the opportunity to transmit from the Battleship NORTH CAROLINA's radio rooms. Thanks to their willingness to staff this program, it is a reality.

Operating under the call of the ship, NI4BK, guests may enjoy a 2-hour appointment with a club member who will meet them at the Battleship ticket window. Operations will be on a 20-meter voice using a modern transceiver located in the ship's original main radio room. For operators who prefer CW (Morse code), transmissions will occur from the ship's main transmitter room. Operators will need to bring their own key or use the ship's straight key. Azalea Coast members will take care of all QSL cards. Appointments are free with regular paid ship admission. To make an appointment, please contact Kim Sincox, Museum Services Director: 910-251-5797 extension 3006 or museum@battleshipnc.com.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's

EXCITER

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